



Value of the term: Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have to say the cooler temperatures this week have been very welcome as the heat wave certainly impacted on our planned events!

On Monday 22nd June, Jeremy Loukes, our School Effectiveness Adviser, spent the day working with leaders and dropping into lessons across the school. He was also treated to 'wonder lunch' and he agreed that it was simply wonderful! Jeremy was really impressed with the work of the school this year and has provided us with some 'food for thought' for the direction of the school going forward.

Year 1 headed 'out and about' to Hertfordshire Zoo. I know the children thoroughly enjoyed their enrichment experience and they asked some very curious questions in the workshop.



On Tuesday 23rd June, we welcomed our Reception parents to our air-conditioned hall for R2's class assembly. It was lovely to see so many of you at the assembly and I'm sure you are as proud as we are with the progress the children have made over the year.

On Wednesday we welcomed the team from Hatfield Library who led the assembly about the Summer Reading Challenge. The children love reading at Howe Dell and I hope that lots of you rise to the Reading Challenge!



Due to the excessive temperatures in our classrooms we switched to a hybrid approach for the remainder of the week. I hope you enjoyed your research tasks with a focus on climate change. I would like to thank you all for your understanding in this matter. Even the air-conditioning in the hall gave up on Wednesday as the external units were just too hot!

Thankfully, we were back up and running on Thursday for Day Care's parent consultations. It was lovely to chat to parents and I know that the Day Care team thoroughly enjoyed sharing your child's progress and development over the year.

This week has been brimming with events. Year 6 are working incredibly hard on their production with rehearsals in full swing. I keep hearing snippets and we are all in for a treat!

Year 1.1 invited their parents to their class assembly and Year 6 headed out to the annual 'Food and Farming' day at the county showground. This event is a project that I was privileged to be part of establishing back in 2019. The day goes from strength to strength and I was really delighted to watch our children be curious and ask really informed questions.



Having written about plantain, there were squeals of delight when children were able to share with their friends the actual taste; I can only agree that it was delicious! It was lovely to 'bump' into Councillor Mark Watkins (who had previously been to Howe Dell to talk with Year 3 children as part of their PSHE curriculum) and we also met Matt Fisher who is the Mayor of St Albans.

When chatting to the Year 6 children on the way to swimming, they informed me that Howe Dell had been described as a 'fake school', being curious I asked what they meant. It was a compliment as other schools and staff/exhibitors at the event didn't think we were real as our behaviour was exemplary. I explained that this was just the 'Howe Dell way' and that our expectations are high both on and off site.

As part of their safeguarding monitoring role, Mary Murphy our Safeguarding Governor undertook the Summer term visit. Mary Murphy joined our Governing Board in 2026 and was keen to see safeguarding in action. During her visit she met with a group of learners who shared with her how they stay safe online and what they would do if they had any worries.

We also welcomed the 'Electric Umbrella' back to Howe Dell for a 'shine a light' workshop. The children had a ball and the hall was filled with music, neuro-diversity and happiness!



On Friday we held our 'Author of the Month' assembly. This is always a high-light of the month as it is lovely to celebrate the progress children have made in their writing. From one celebration event to another, I headed down to Day Care to celebrate Pre-School's Graduation. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the Academic Year and that our Day Care learners will be starting Reception in September.

Looking ahead, next week looks just as busy with a plethora of activities and events to look forward to including: Year 4 to St Albans Abbey to participate in 'Shine a light' with the Electric Umbrella, the Year 6 production and our transition day where children meet their new teachers for September.

We shall of course be sharing this information with you in advance of Thursday 9th July to enable you, should you wish, to discuss this with your child.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

BABY NEWS

We are absolutely over the moon to share some more baby with you! Mrs Griffiths has welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world on 16th June! Both mum and baby are now snug at home, enjoying these precious early moments together. Let us all send our warmest wishes and congratulations to Mrs Griffiths and her family.

YEAR 1 ZOO TRIP

On Monday 22nd June, Year 1 visited Hertfordshire Zoo. We attended a 'Fur, Feathers and Scales' workshop which helped us to learn more about mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. It was super-hot but we still really enjoyed getting to see all the different animals and enrich our Science knowledge.



FOOD & FARMING TRIP

Year 6 enjoyed an exciting and informative Food and Farming Day, where they learned about the journey food takes from farm to fork. Throughout the day, pupils explored different aspects of farming, food production and sustainability through a range of hands-on activities. The children had the opportunity to meet the Countryside Police, watch a sheep show and sheep shearing demonstration, take part in a tractor ride, sample a variety of farm products, and learn more about how farmers care for animals, grow crops and produce the food we eat every day. They particularly enjoyed the interactive sessions, which brought their learning to life and helped them understand the important role farming plays in our daily lives.



HATFIELD LIBRARY SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Last Wednesday we welcomed two librarians from Hatfield Library who came to launch this year's Summer Reading Challenge in a whole school assembly. It was great to see how many children raised their hands to say that they visit the library and that they have taken part in the challenge in previous years. We hope that many more Howe Dell children will join in this year too.

This year's challenge, Read to the Beat, has a musical theme. The challenge aims to keep children reading throughout the summer holidays and rewards them for reading for pleasure. Your children can sign up for FREE at any Hertfordshire Library from 4 July 2026. The Challenge finishes on Saturday 5 September 2026. Those who participate will receive a certificate and medal from the library team.

For further information, please use the link below or visit any local Hertfordshire library.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/news-and-campaigns/summer-reading-challenge.aspx>



ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

Our children were thrilled to watch the vibrant and uplifting Electric Umbrella music show this week. The performers filled the hall with colour, energy and infectious joy, and the children were completely captivated from start to finish. Electric Umbrella's message of inclusion and celebration really resonated with them, and the buzz of excitement continued long after the final song. It was a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.



THE WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Since the end of May, we have been encouraging parents, guardians and children to make active trips to school! Since 'Walk to School Week', we have seen an increase in the number of families choosing to walk, scoot, bike or park and stride!

Thank you for helping us keep the air clean in our local area.

The year group with the most active trips recorded was Reception - well done!

Well done to the children that have achieved their badges for making at least 5 active trips in June! You will receive your badges next week! Congratulations and keep going!



BOOK FAIR SUCCESS

It was wonderful to see so many families and children come along to our recent Travelling Books fair. As you know, every sale made helps us to earn rewards for school which we can then spend on new books. I am delighted to tell you that we have earned £591.91 in rewards!

This is such an amazing total, which would not have been achieved without your support - thank you.



5 STAR RATING

Congratulations to our fabulous kitchen team who have once again retained their food hygiene rating in a recent inspection.



YEAR 5 DANCERS

We would like to celebrate the fantastic achievements of Everlyn & Erina, who had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the performance awards for the AAB American Academy of ballet!

The girls both attend Herts Dance Studio where their hard work and dedication has truly paid off. After weeks of practise, both girls were simply amazing on the day! They not only received awards and medals but also earned a scholarship discount for AAB New York. What an incredible reward for their passion and commitment to ballet!

Congratulations to the girls on their amazing performance and accomplishments!

SUMMER PLAYScheme

We will be running Playscheme during the summer holidays from Thursday 23rd July to Friday 14th August, 8am – 6pm. Our playscheme is available for children who will be new to Reception from September to Year 6. Non-Howe Dell children welcome. £41 per child, siblings £40. Price includes breakfast which is served until 9.15am.

If you wish to enrol your child for one or more days, please return the form to us as soon as possible (latest Friday 10th July) to book your place. Forms can be found on our website, following the link below:

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Playschemes&pid=83>

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

07.07.26	Year 4 Electric Umbrella event at St Albans Abbey Year 6 production Year 6 production	9.30am – 12.30pm 1.45pm 6.00pm
09.07.26	Secondary transition (Year 6) New to Reception parent meeting Whole school transition afternoon	1.15pm 1.30pm – 3.15pm
10.07.26	Sports Day – Year 1, 2 & 3 Family Picnic Year 1 - 6 Sports Day – Year 4, 5 & 6	9.30am – 11.50am 12.00pm – 1.00pm 1.00pm – 3.15pm
13.07.26	Eco club climate action plan project	3.15pm – 4.30pm
14.07.26	Year 1.2 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
15.07.26	Sports Day – Nursery and Reception Nursery & Reception family picnic Rocksteady concert – parents invited	10.00am – 11.15am 11.30am – 12.30pm 2.30pm
16.07.26	Key Stage 2 Celebration of Music – parents invited	9.15am
20.07.26	Year 3 poetry reading – parents invited Year 6 prom	2.50pm 5.30pm – 7.00pm
22.07.26	Year 6 leavers assembly Last day of term – School closes at 1.30pm	9.00am
23.07.26	INSET day	

PSA NEWS

As the excitement of this year's Summer Fete settles, we wanted to take a moment to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make it such a wonderful afternoon.

Whether you came along with your family, bought raffle tickets, volunteered your time, donated prizes, baked cakes, ran a stall or simply came along to support the event, you all played a part in making it a fantastic community event for our school. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

We'd Love Your Feedback

Every year we look at how we can make the fete even better, so if you have a few minutes, we'd really value your thoughts. Anonymous feedback can be shared here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5VvwWcTZK9>

Could You Be Part of the PSA?

Behind the scenes, the PSA is a small group of volunteer parents who enjoy working together to create events that benefit our school community.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd love to welcome you. Whether you can help regularly or just occasionally, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you once again for helping make this year's Summer Fete such a success. We look forward to sharing the final fundraising total with you soon!



REMINDERS



MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

Please be reminded that mobile phones should not be used whilst on the school premises. Parents/carers and children seen using their phones on site will be asked to put them away. Thank you for your support in this safeguarding matter.

STAY & READ

Nursery and Reception parents/carers are invited to our 'Stay and Read' sessions every Tuesday from 8.40am - 8.55am.

LUNCH ORDERS

Please remember to order your child's lunch through school grid. If lunch has not been ordered, you will need to bring in a packed lunch which must not contain hot food.

Unless your child requires a Halal meal to due religious reasons, please do not select it. If you do select it and it is not for religious reasons your child will be given the vegetarian option.

UNIFORM & CLOTHING

Please ensure children's clothing and uniform is named. PE tops are available to order, please come to the school office to collect an order form. All children should have a pair of plimsolls kept in school for indoor use.

PARKING

Please ensure you are being considerate when parking and are not stopping on double yellow lines or by the front barrier. Spaces in our car park are very limited. We have no capacity for parents to use the school car park at drop off and pick up times.

MERITS

Well done to the following children for achieving their merit certificate this week:

Sebastian	1.1	Nicholas	2.2	Hachikaru	4.2
Muslimah	1.1	Connie	3.1	Olawale	5.1
Danish	1.1	Advika	3.1	Andrew	6.2
Ihan	1.1	Atarah	3.1	Jakub	6.2
Sarayu	2.1	Chester	3.2	Princess	6.2
Filip	2.1	James	3.2	Maysa	6.2
Matylda	2.2	Wanaka	4.2	Laiken-Jules	6.2
Ahmed	2.2	Nikan	4.2	Kyla	6.2
Grace	2.2			Rachel	6.2



BEACON PUPILS

On the recommendation of the class teachers, we would like to celebrate our Beacon Pupils this week.

Nursery	Orla	For always following our Golden Expectations
Year R1	Scarlett	For applying her phonics in her writing
Year R2	Oliver	For engaging in carpet time learning, and working towards following our Golden Expectations
Year 1.1	Chester	For his positivity and enthusiasm during our school trip to the zoo
Year 1.2	Irha	For always being cheerful and showing enthusiasm for learning
Year 2.1	Geraldine	For speaking to all members of our school with politeness and respect
Year 2.2	Posi	For his 'Give it a go' attitude in English
Year 3.1	Samuel	For being resilient when things got tricky
Year 3.2	Ifeanyi	For demonstrating a more positive and proactive approach to his learning
Year 4.1	Arielle	For always working hard and taking pride in her work
Year 4.2	Tommy	For settling in well into year 4
Year 5.1	Marvelous	For trying hard in her assessments and checking everything carefully
Year 5.2	Raghava	For his continuous dedication to his learning along with his increasing confidence with his oracy skills during partner discussions and class discussions
Year 6.1	Alecia	For her enthusiastic attitude and supporting her peers whenever she can
Year 6.2	Edom	For consistently following the Golden Expectations in class and around the school

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Well done to the following children for being selected as Author of the month:

Nursery	Kinan	3.2	Ayo
R1	Kalada	4.1	Erin
R2	Emily W	4.2	Mayumi
1.1	Elizabeth	5.1	Medhansh
1.2	Ozioma	5.2	Daniel
2.1	Malik	6.1	Rayansh
2.2	Charlie	6.2	Daniel
3.1	Dea		



FAB FRIDAY

Well done to the following children for being selected to sit at the Fab Friday lunch table:

R.1	Noah	R.2	Keziah
1.1	Annie	1.2	Dana
2.1	Othniel	2.2	Oliver
3.1	Manuchimso	3.2	Freya
4.1	Erin	4.2	Erik C
5.1	Lucille	5.2	Jack
6.1	Alex O	6.2	Harley

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 15th - 19th June 2026	WINNERS Year 2.1
Reception 1	95.0%
Reception 2	97.7%
Year 1 Class 1	95.0%
Year 1 Class 2	94.0%
Year 2 Class 1	98.3%
Year 2 Class 2	94.2%
Year 3 Class 1	93.9%
Year 3 Class 2	91.4%
Year 4 Class 1	94.7%
Year 4 Class 2	94.3%
Year 5 Class 1	94.7%
Year 5 Class 2	93.7%
Year 6 Class 1	96.6%
Year 6 Class 2	93.3%
Weekly Attendance	94.8%

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 22th - 26th June 2026	WINNERS Year R.2 & 2.1 &
Reception 1	92.6%
Reception 2	95.9%
Year 1 Class 1	90.5%
Year 1 Class 2	92.2%
Year 2 Class 1	95.9%
Year 2 Class 2	94.4%
Year 3 Class 1	92.8%
Year 3 Class 2	93.0%
Year 4 Class 1	88.0%
Year 4 Class 2	94.8%
Year 5 Class 1	93.9%
Year 5 Class 2	95.3%
Year 6 Class 1	95.7%
Year 6 Class 2	87.6%
Weekly Attendance	93.0%

Signs of the Week

Swimming Pool Caravan